

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
6.20.2016

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM

Attendees: Richard Leister, Ed Delia, Christine Lewis, Helen Kirsch, Deborah Plotnik

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 6.6.16 not approved

Community Garden:

Christine presented letter announcing the award. Some of the requirements include: a dedicated area, 2 head gardeners, no fertilizer, access to water, produce must be weighted (a scale will be provided), non GMO, organic practices, up to 20 participants.

Richard, Kevin and Christine met with Bob Bocchino and John Bussiculo.

Christine would like more help from the city re: labor, installation of materials. City would like an escrow fund to take care of it. Some of the issues are: water needs a dedicated line, infrastructure costs.

Some strategies: a dedicated group just for the Community garden; to use a county owned land instead of BH land; look at partnering with other non-profit groups (per RU suggestion); approach the Township with specific ideas, have another meeting.

Continuous maintenance is the biggest concern plus different interests from different stakeholders.

Environmental Movies:

Nothing to report.

Scout Projects:

Nothing to report, but a scout contacted Richard for a project, he will inform Ron.

Rain gardens:

Richard doesn't have feedback from people on the Home Gardens.

Columbia MS and Gov. Livingston HS will start installing their RG.

Peppertown Park:

Mulching and planting is finished, just watering now.

Shrubs will be planted in the summer.

Passaic River Park Crossing:

13 L'Oreal volunteers worked on Friday 6/10/16. They laid mulch and stone, also made repairs along the trail (wood supports, deer enclosure), not able to fix kiosk.

Stormwater Ordinance:
Nothing to report.

Dog Waste Receptacles:
No updates

CSIP Grant for EAB:
No updates

Street Fair: June 26.

Richard got a game from ANJEC about Water Conservation and Stormwater, he got tattoos per Helen's suggestion.

For the raffle, there will be a tree and 2 rain barrels (55 gallons each). The barrels need a hole, Richard will check with hardware store, Ed will pick them up when ready.

Ed has a canopy, tables, and chairs.

Christine has fish pole, raffle tickets, table cloth.

Officially it opens from 10-5. Richard will be there at the beginning, last time people showed up early in the morning. He will ask available times from other commissioners.

Tree fund:

Richard talked to Hall's and the best way to work for them would be for each resident to pay directly, then get reimbursed by the Town. He suggests to use local garden centers, will follow up with the Town.

New Business

Sustainable Jersey:

Will start in August.

Richard sent a link to Sustainable Jersey website. We need to know what to do to get points for next year's certification.

Car Charging Stations by private company - 15cents per minute. It might be a good idea so the Town doesn't pay for it, and we get Sustainable Jersey points

Summer Playground:

The recycling bin might happen; Bob will pay for a container and is willing to supply it. It has to be large enough; one idea is to get a large wired cage.

Kids are already into recycling, to encourage it more, it could a game, a challenge.

About Master Gardeners giving a program, they need to be scheduled in advance.

Fish at Littel Lord pond:

Ed reports that they were brought back.

Plans

666 Springfield Ave

Close to River Road, looking for a Letter of Interpretation.

EC comments:

- Is there contamination?
- Now occupied by Berkeley Florist, they are getting ready to develop
- The pipeline needs repair since it affects other properties, it needs to be addressed.
- Is it the Township's sewer or is it privately owned?
- Does the Town have an ordinance?
- Check if easement is part of the property.
- Richard will follow up

Replacement of Springfield Ave. Bridge

3-55 Springfield Avenue

There is not a map showing the location, not a street address, maybe by Firestone.

Concern: are they providing for drainage? Are the 2 storm drains sufficiently sized?

Richard will ask.

Cell Tower at GLHS:

Already looked at Tree Plan before.

Located between the ball field and football field, close by a group of trees.

Proposing to use arbor vitae – these are not deer proof and deer like them, there is a lot of deer in the area. Hellen commented that they have addressed this problem; they have removed 12, to be replaced by 24. The area is not used by students. Hellen is also concerned about the use of gas vs diesel fuel, is gas better? What about propane?

Apparently diesel is always used for an emergency by Verizon, can the HS generator be used for an emergency instead? The Tower should have its own power source.

Next hearing about the subject will be Thursday night (6/23)

Connell – Hotel

Addition of 2 suites and Conservatory to an already approved site.

This is instead of 200 cubic yards storage area, there is no variation on building sq. ft.

Is there a change on impervious coverage?

Meeting adjourned about 8:55 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2016 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Plotnik on July 27, 2016